

U.S.S.N. 09/682,742

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201-0006 (FGT 1519 PA)

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 8, 2003, claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 8, 10-11, and 16 have been amended. Note that claim 1, 11, and 16 are independent claims from which claims 2-10, 12-15, and 17-20 depend, respectively, therefrom.

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Brown* (US 3,549,989). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request the Examiner to reconsider claims 1 and 16 in light of the enclosed amendments and comments below. Claims 1 and 16 have similar limitations and will therefore be discussed together.

Claims 1 and 16 are directed towards a conductivity sensor and method of assembling the same. The conductivity sensor includes a first annular electrode that has a first inner diameter and a second annular electrode that has an inner diameter that is equal to the first inner diameter. A tubular portion is disposed axially between the first electrode and the second electrode. The tubular portion defines a sensor cell with the first annular electrode and the second annular electrode. The cell has a second inner diameter that is greater than the first inner diameter and a cell length between the first electrode and the second electrode. The claim has been amended to clarify that the first and second electrodes extend axially from the tubular portion. This allows the sensor to be coupled into a path such as a coolant path as recited in claim 11.

The *Brown* reference does not teach that the electrodes define a cell and that they extend axially outward from the tubular portion. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this rejection.

Claims 3, 11-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of *Jeter* (US 3,866,678). Claim 11 is similar to claims 1 and 16 and has been amended to include the limitation of the electrodes extending from the cell.

Claim 11 is therefore novel and non-obvious for the above stated reasons.

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Claims 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of *Murdock* (US 3,991,623). Claims 4-6, 9, 10, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brown* in view of *Colvin* (US 4,751,466). None of these additional references teaches or suggests the missing elements of their base dependent claims. That is, neither of the references teaches electrodes that extend from the tubular portion.

In light of the amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all the rejections are now overcome. The applicants have added no new matter to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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